

Request for Triage Consultation and Expedited Admission (TCEA)

Effective March 15, 2016 Jails or assigned defense attorneys may request a Triage Consultation for any inmate on a court order awaiting forensic services from the State Hospital whom the staff believes requires additional psychiatric intervention because the individual is **currently** in danger related to:

- significant and life threatening psychotic symptoms; and/or
- active suicidal intent or actions - as differentiated from suicidal ideation or gestures

A. If the individual has a Felony charge and is:

- a. Awaiting an in jail evaluation for competency to stand trial - please feel free to submit the referral form and your concerns will be shared with the assigned forensic evaluator who will be on site to complete the evaluation. The forensic evaluator may refer the individual for Expedited Admission if appropriate.
- b. Awaiting admission for an inpatient evaluation – Please complete the process as described below.
- c. Awaiting admission for competency restoration – please complete the process as described below.

B. If the individual has a Misdemeanor charge please contact local crisis services a Designated Mental Health Professional (DMHP) may assess the individual and if they find the individual detainable may work with the prosecutor and court to have the individual civilly detained either on a jail hold or with the charges dismissed. If the DMHP finds that the individual is appropriate for civil detention but the court is unwilling to dismiss and refer or a jail hold is not possible please activate the process as described below. This process should be utilized for the following populations: Misdemeanor charge and is:

- a. Awaiting an in jail evaluation for competency to stand trial
- b. Awaiting admission for an inpatient evaluation
- c. Awaiting admission for competency restoration

Requesting a Triage Consultation and Expedited Admission (TCEA)

To request a Triage Consultation for the first time, please email triageconsult@dshs.wa.gov we will respond by providing you with access to a secure account.

To initiate a Triage Consultation the following information must be submit via email to triageconsult@dshs.wa.gov :

A completed copy of the Triage Consultation & Expedited Admission Request Form which includes:

- ☐ A brief synopsis of the immediate concerns that would necessitate immediate admission along with an explanation of what need is not currently met by the environment/facility the individual is currently in;
- ☐ Status of a court order for administration of involuntary medications; and
- ☐ Description of interventions/supports already attempted.

Please be prepared to upload a copy of the following to the secure site link you will receive:

- ☐ A copy of the valid court order for admission to a state hospital;
- ☐ Medical and Psychiatric Records from the facility;
- ☐ Medication records for the last 72 hours;
- ☐ Restraint/Seclusion logs for the duration of their stay at current facility;
- ☐ Medical/Mental Health notes for length of stay at current facility;
- ☐ Current labs – if available.

Once the completed referral packet is received

A Triage Consultant will review the referrals in the order in which they are received and contact the submitting jail to arrange a case consult by phone or video if additional information is needed. If the Triage Consultant assesses that the individual meets criteria for potential expedited admission services they will immediately submit a copy of the referring information to the appropriate state hospital Medical Director for consideration.

In all other cases the Triage consultant will submit a briefing on outcomes and recommendations to the state hospital Medical Director within two business days. A copy of any outcome recommendations will also be made available to the referring jail.

The Medical Director will make the final determination about the need for immediate admission within 24-hours of the Triage Consultants report and will direct the Admissions Coordinator to do one of the following:

- Admit the patient as soon as a bed is available and ensure a valid order for the administration of involuntary medications has been received from the court; OR
- Continue with the waitlist per protocol and admit the person when they become eligible for a bed.

At the discretion of the Medical Director another plan for prioritized admission may be utilized to meet the individualized needs of a particular individual.

The TCEA is not meant to replace emergency medical care. In a life threatening emergency, the individual should be taken for emergency medical attention. Additionally it is not intended to replace the services that are currently available to this population which can effectively address their needs through collaboration of community mental health organizations and the criminal justice system.